(a) whether it is a fact that the US administration has requested the Indian Government to plug the leak in their opium export to US for medical needs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, including the steps being taken by Government to check the same; and

(c) what was the quantity of opiate raw material exported to US during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quantity of opium exported to USA during the last 3 financial years is as follows:—

Year	Quantity of opium exported
1988-89 . .	204·75 M.Ts.
1989-90 . .	287·20 M.Ts.
1990-91 . .	440·00 M.Ts.

W.B. Praises India's economic policies

853. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the World Bank Vice-President, Mr. Lawrence Summan's statement, as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 14th January 1992, wherein he singled out India amongst the countries for praise for the "bold" economic reforms, which according to him, could be a miracle story of the nineties; and

(f) if so, what were the specific instances made out by him about the results of the reforms, that were already visible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The specific instances made out by him relate to the restoration of credit worthiness and increased foreign exchange reserves.

Seizure of smuggled gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggled gold weighing 58.3 kg. costing over Rs. 2.8 crores was seized by DRI officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport Cargo complex on January 25/26, 1992 and was found concealed in household goods imported by an unsuspecting diplopment of a friendly country.

(b) if so, what are the findings of the investigations, if any made into this one of the largest over hauls of smuggled gold;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the total amount of gold seized by DRI, Customs or other security and enforcement authorities during January, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) 500 pieces of gold bearing markings indicating their foreign origin collectively weighing 58,325 kgs. and valued at Rs. 2.81 crores approximately were seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 25|01|1992 from a consignment which had arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi in the name of a foreign embassy official. The gold had been concealed in a washing machine and a cooking range imported alongwith other household goods.

Investigations have revealed that the foreign embassy official was not involved. Two other persons, namely, Rajkumar Gupta and Trilochan Singh, both of New Delhi, who were found to be involved have been arrested on 25|01|1992 and have also been detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 with effect from 13|02|1992.

The field formations have been alerted about this *modus operandi* and intelligence is being targetted against such smuggling and close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(d) Contraband gold, weighing approximately 336 kgs. and valued at Rs. 16.25 crores (provisional) has been seized by DRI, Customs and other agencies during January, 1992.

Seizure of gold bars at Bombay

855. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1,832 gold bars weighing 213.72 kilograms and valued at Rs. 10.57 crores were seized by air intelligence unit of the Bombay Customs on 14th January, 1992 from a Gulf Air flight;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the circumstances leading to the seizure; and

(c) what are the details of persons brought to book in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) On 13|01|1992, the officers of Sahar Airport Customs, Bombay acting on information, intercepted one circular wheel like iron structure weighing 575 kgs. which had arrived from Sharjah by Gulf Air and was described as forged carbon blind steel flange in the Airway Bill for delivery to a party in Bangalore. Preliminary inquiries indicate that the import was under a fictitious name and address and have not thrown any light about the persons involved. The steel flange was cut and this resulted in recovery and seizure of 1832 gold bars weighing 213.72 kgs approximately and valued at Rs. 10.58 crores approximately.

Disbursement targets for farmers fixed by NABARD in Orissa

856. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have been fixing a disbursement target for farmers in Orissa;

(b) if so, what were the targets and actual disbursement during the last three years;

(c) what are the details of rural development activities undertaken by the NABARD's Regional Office at Bhubaneshwar; and

(d) what are the details of State level| district level committee constituted for development of industries in rural aseas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural development (NABARD): does not fx the target for disbursement by banks to the farmers for any State. However, the target and achievement of refinance provided by NABARD to the banks under the schematic lending, including non-farm activities, in the State of Orissa for the last three years were as under:—

(Rs. in Crores).

Year (April-March)	Target	Achievement
1988-89 * . .	51·80	38·92
1989-90 . . .	57·16	47·62
1990-91 . . .	43·50	39·46

*pertains to the period July 1988 to March 1989)

(c) The Regional Office of NABARD at Bhubaneshwar sanctions the schemes for activities relating to agriculture and rural development and also releases the refinance to the eligible banks for the same. It has also prepared Potential Linked Credit plans (PLPS) for agriculture